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World Missionary Conference (1910)

MINUTES

OF

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

VIII.—MEETING, 30th JUNE 1909.

(To be approved by General Committee,

)

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At York, and within the Station Hotel, on Wednesday,
30th June 1909, at 2.45 p.m.

Sederunt. **85.** The Executive Committee met. Present, Mr. Duncan McLaren in the chair; with him—Bishop Montgomery, Rev. Prebendary Fox, Revs. William Findlay, George Packer, Dr. George Robson, Tissington Tatlow, Dr. A. B. Wann, E. Alport Wareham, C. E. Wilson, Mr. G. Graham Brown, Dr. Herbert Lankester, Messrs. H. W. Smith and J. H. Oldham and Kenneth MacLennan, Secretaries, together with Mr. John R. Mott, Member of the American Executive Committee.

Prayer. The meeting was opened with prayer by Prebendary Fox.

Apologies for Absence. **86.** Apologies for absence were submitted from the following:— Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Lord Reay, Revs. E. P. Cachemaille, Canon Dawson, J. Fairley Daly, John Irwin, T. H. Martin, Dr. J. Mitford Mitchell, John H. Ritson, Dr. Wardlaw Thompson, Messrs. F. A. Brown Douglas, R. R. Simpson, Edward A. Talbot, John A. Trail, and Dr. William Wilson.

Confirmation of Minutes. **87.** The Minutes of meeting of Executive Committee of 25th March last, being printed and in the hands of members, were held as read, and were confirmed.

Communication from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. **88.** Submitted extract of a resolution passed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland at its meeting at Belfast on the 12th inst. expressing hearty sympathy with the objects of the Conference. The meeting received this communication with pleasure, and resolved to minute their thanks.

Issue of Conference News Sheet. **89.** Mr. Oldham reported that, in view of the necessity of immediate action, the Secretaries had, at the request of the American Executive and with the approval of the Central Advisory Committee, made arrangements for the issue of a *Monthly News Sheet*, commencing on 1st October next, the eight numbers to be sold at 2s. post paid. This action was approved.

Finance. **90.** The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. W. Smith, submitted a financial statement as at 25th June 1909, from which it appeared that the subscriptions and guarantees intimated to that date amounted to £2073, 1s., and that of this amount £1029, 6s., had been paid to

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him. The expenditure as at 25th June amounted to £1313, 12s. 8d., leaving a balance due to the bank of £284, 6s. 8d.

91. Dr. George Robson reported on behalf of the Joint Committee on Meetings in the Synod Hall, and after discussion the following proposals were approved of:—

Report as to
Synod Hall
Meetings.

(a) That the Associate Conference in the Synod Hall should not partake merely of the character of an overflow Conference, but should aim at securing an attendance fully representative of the active supporters of the various Missionary Societies throughout the country.

(b) That the programme for the Associate Conference meetings might be adjusted in order to provide for—(1) presenting the Reports of the Commissions in a popular form; (2) meetings at which the work in the various fields would be represented by missionaries; (3) addresses on the motives and objects of missionary enterprise; and (4) a training school.

(c) That the places available should be assigned to the various Missionary Societies in Great Britain proportionately to their representation at the Conference (a somewhat larger number being reserved for Scotland, the additional share to be approximately equal to the proportion which would fall to American and Continental societies if they were participating in the allocation of places), and that societies should be invited to take such measures as might seem to them advisable to secure as representative an attendance as possible from their respective constituencies; any tickets not claimed and paid for by a fixed date to be disposed of by the Joint Committee at its discretion.

(d) That the work of securing a representative attendance from Scotland be entrusted to the Public Meetings (Scotland) Committee, care being taken to ensure that the Scottish societies are offered a number of places *pro rata* with English societies.

(e) That the price of season tickets (transferable) for admission to the Synod Hall meetings should be 7s. 6d., and that, for a payment of 5s. additional, numbered seats should be reserved for season ticket holders up to five minutes before each meeting begins. The question of day tickets was reserved meantime.

In order to give an opportunity to young people and those who might not be able to purchase season tickets to attend at least one meeting of the Conference, the Joint Committee were

authorised to arrange for not more than one additional meeting in a third hall.

(f) The meeting remitted the programme for the meetings in the Synod Hall to the Joint Committee with powers.

Report of
Arrangements
Committee.

92. The following recommendations by the Arrangements Committee were discussed:—

1. That the west gallery of the Assembly Hall, seating 207 persons, be reserved for missionaries who are not official delegates; that no tickets for this gallery be assigned until a certain specified date, and that if on that date there should be more applications from missionaries than the number of seats available, the seats be assigned proportionately to the various missionary societies, who may select the missionaries to whom the tickets should be given, or (alternatively) that tickets be assigned for only part of the time, thus making it possible to admit, for only half the time, double the number of missionaries; that the price to missionaries of a season ticket for all the meetings in the Assembly Hall be 7s. 6d.

2. That the east and south galleries, seating 643 persons, be reserved for purchasers of day tickets at a price of 2s. per day.

3. That the wives of official delegates to the Conference making application before a certain specified date be allowed to purchase a complete set of day tickets giving admission to these galleries at a price of 12s. 6d.

4. That those in Edinburgh offering hospitality to official delegates be given a ticket of admission for one day free of charge, or if it should be found that sufficient space is available, two or more day tickets.

5. That no steps be taken at the present stage as to the assignment of places in the moderators' gallery, seating 157 persons; but that it be left till nearer the time to determine how these places should be assigned.

6. That all day tickets be transferable, but available only for the meetings in the Assembly Hall, not for those in the Synod Hall.

The general principles laid down in these recommendations as to the classes to be admitted to the Assembly Hall were approved of, but the suggestion was made that the prices proposed to be charged for admission might possibly suffer some reduction, and that not

fewer than two free tickets should be given to hosts of delegates. It was remitted back to the Committee to reconsider these matters, with powers. The opinion was expressed that the proposed charge for admission of missionaries should be kept as low as possible.

93. Submitted the following programme of Assembly Hall evening meetings, drawn up by the International Committee:— Programme for
Evening
Meetings.

Tuesday, 14th . OPENING MEETING.

- (1) The Missionary Enterprise central in the Life of the Church.
- (2) Christ the Leader of the Missionary Enterprise.

Wednesday, 15th. Christianity the Final and Universal Religion.

- (1) As Redemption.
- (2) As an Ethical Ideal.

Thursday, 16th . The Missionary Enterprise in the Light of History.

- (1) The Missions of the Early Church in their Bearing on the Modern Missionary Enterprise.
- (2) Mediæval Missions in their Bearing on the Modern Missionary Enterprise.

Friday, 17th . The Missionary Enterprise from the Standpoint of Missionary Leaders on the Continent of Europe.

- (1) The Extent and Characteristics of German Missions.
- (2) The Contribution of Holland and Scandinavia to the Missionary Enterprise.
- (3) The Missionary Task of the French Protestant Church.

Saturday, 18th . Changes in the Character of the Missionary Problem in Recent Years and their Effect on the Missionary Enterprise.

- (1) In the Far East.
- (2) In India.
- (3) Among Primitive and Backward Peoples.

Programme for
Evening
Meetings.

- Sunday, 19th* . (1) The Duty of Christian Nations.
(2) The Contribution of Non-Christian Races
to the Body of Christ.
- Monday, 20th* . The Problem of Co-operation between Foreign
and Native Workers.
- Tuesday, 21st* . The Demands made on the Church by the
Missionary Enterprise.
- Wednesday, 22nd.* The Sufficiency of God.
- Thursday, 23rd* . CLOSING MEETING.

The meeting approved generally of the proposed programme, and instructed the International Committee to complete the arrangements for the programme.

Resolutions at
Conference.

94. On the recommendation of the Central Advisory Committee, it was resolved that the findings of the Commissions shall not as a rule be submitted to the Conference for vote. If, however, it should be felt, with regard to any particular question coming under the consideration of any Commission, or with regard to any matter of general and public interest touching the missionary enterprise, that an expression of opinion from the Conference as a whole is desirable, it shall be permissible to submit such a question to the Conference, provided that this course meets with the approval of two-thirds of the members of the Business Committee, or such other body as may be appointed for this purpose. The Committee approved the foregoing principle in the meantime only in a general way, on the understanding that detailed rules of procedure will be prepared and submitted to the American and British Executive in due course.

Scottish Public
Meetings.

95. Submitted report on behalf of the Scottish Public Meetings Committee, on whose recommendation the Executive Committee resolved:—

(1) That the Public Meetings (Scotland) Committee be authorised to expend, if necessary, a sum not exceeding £250 in the promotion of interest in the Conference throughout Scotland.

(2) That the Rev. Frank Ashcroft, Secretary, United Free Church Foreign Mission Committee, be added to the Public Meetings (Scotland) Committee.

(3) That sanction be given to the holding of two public meetings in Glasgow on each of the four last days of the Conference, on the

understanding that the speakers for these meetings should not be invited directly by the Scottish Public Meetings Committee, but only through the Executive Committee, or such other Committee as may be appointed for the purpose.

Scottish Public Meetings.

96. In order that the official delegates may be able to devote themselves without distraction or interruption to the work of the Conference, it was determined: (1) That no meeting in which official delegates to the Conference are invited to take part should be arranged during the days of the Conference, with the exception of one daily public meeting in Edinburgh (Minute 91), and the meetings in Glasgow, as sanctioned in Minute 95. (2) That the Secretaries be instructed to write to Missionary Societies requesting that they should not arrange for independent meetings in Edinburgh during the Conference. (3) That the Secretaries further communicate with delegates when they are appointed, asking that they should not undertake engagements to attend meetings in or out of Edinburgh during the Conference without first obtaining the approval of the Executive Committee. (4) That attention should be drawn to this matter in the first issue of the News Sheet.

Meetings during the Conference.

97. It was resolved to ask all official delegates to the Conference to place themselves at the disposal of the Executive for any work that they may be able to undertake immediately before or after the Conference, and that they should not accept any invitation to address meetings except those for which arrangements were made by the Executive Committee or other Committees authorised by it.

Engagements by Delegates.

98. Mr. Oldham reported the steps which were being taken to interest the Press. It was suggested that the meeting of London Secretaries to be held next week should be asked to take up consideration of the matter of promoting interest in the Conference throughout England.

Awakening of Interest in the Conference.

The meeting decided that it was desirable to bring the matter under the notice of Missionary Societies by deputation, and it was decided to suggest to the London Committee that they should make arrangements for the attendance of Mr. Oldham at meetings of the various Missionary Boards, in order to bring the Conference more prominently under their notice.

99. Dr. Robson submitted report by the Central Advisory Committee *re* publication of Reports of Commissions, and, on the recommendation of the Committee, the meeting decided—

Publication of Reports of Commissions.

(a) That each Report, together with the relative evidence,

Publication of
Reports of
Commissions.

should be limited to a maximum of 100,000 words, except the Reports of Commissions VII. and VIII., which would be limited to 60,000 words; that each Report should contain in addition a report of the discussion on the subject to which it relates of an average length of about 20,000 words.

(b) That the eight volumes of the Reports should be sold to subscribers making application either before or during the meetings of the Conference at the price of 12s. 6d. net for the set; that after the Conference the price should be raised to 15s. net per set, and that the uniform price for any single volume should be 2s. 6d. Power was granted to the Editorial Committee to adjust the above prices, if it should seem to them good, so as to fix a price which would permit of the Reports being furnished post free within certain limits, and further, to somewhat reduce the price to subscribers abroad in view of the increased cost of carriage, provided that the estimates should appear to make such a reduction possible without risk of serious loss.

(c) That the Conference should do its own publishing, and undertake the financial responsibility in connection therewith.

Report from
Delegations
Committee.

100. Submitted Report from the Delegations Committee, on whose recommendation applications made by the following British Societies for representation at the Conference were approved, and the number of delegates opposite their names were allocated to them respectively—

	Average Home Income for three years.	Delegates.
1. Baptist Missionary Society	£84,372	22
2. Baptist Zenana Mission	14,123	4
3. British and Foreign Bible Society	84,183	22
4. British Society for Propagating Gospel among Jews	5,542	2
5. Ceylon and India General Mission	2,193	1
6. Church Missionary Society	363,587	91
7. Church of England Zenana Society	52,502	14
8. Church of Scotland Foreign Mission Committee	31,274	8
9. Church of Scotland Women's Missionary Association	13,431	4
10. Church of Scotland Jewish Committee	6,019	2
11. Christian Literature Society (China)	3,837	1
12. Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society	3,885	1

	Average Home Income for three years.	Delegates.	Report from Delegations Committee.
13. Egypt General Mission	£2,355	1	
14. English Presbyterian Church Foreign Mission Committee	22,213	6	
15. English Presbyterian Women's Mission- ary Committee	9,848	3	
16. Friends' Foreign Missionary Association	28,792	8	
17. Ireland, Presbyterian Church in, Foreign Mission Committee	27,514	7	
18. Kurku and Central Indian Hill Mission	3,063	1	
19. London Missionary Society	148,087	38	
20. London Society for Promoting Christianity among Jews	42,310	11	
21. Mission to Lepers	16,848	5	
22. National Bible Society of Scotland . .	12,830	4	
23. New Hebrides Mission (J. G. Paton) . .	4,289	2	
24. North Africa Mission	8,877	3	
25. Primitive Methodist Missionary Society	7,407	2	
26. Qua Iboe Mission	2,723	1	
27. Regions beyond Missionary Union . .	16,132	5	
28. South American Missionary Society . .	6,427	2	
29. United Methodist Church Missions . .	24,000	6	
30. United Free Church of Scotland Foreign Mission Committee	84,900	22	
31. United Free Church of Scotland Women's Foreign Mission	23,880	6	
32. United Free Church of Scotland Livingstonia Mission	12,503	4	
33. United Free Church of Scotland Jewish Committee	9,181	3	
34. Welsh Presbyterian Foreign Mission . .	15,667	4	
35. Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society	149,663	38	
36. Wesleyan Methodist Women's Work . .	18,405	5	
37. Zenana Bible and Medical Mission . .	19,654	5	

The meeting further, on the recommendation of the Delegations Committee, resolved that all members of Commissions not directly connected with any Missionary Society as missionaries, secretaries, or members of the Governing Committee be included in the hundred additional delegates, but that all members of Commissions thus directly connected with Missionary Societies should become members of the Conference only through appointment by the Missionary Society with which they are connected.

In the course of discussion on the report of the Delegations Committee, the question arose whether the average income of Societies for the years 1905-6-7 or 1906-7-8 was to be taken, and it was left to the Committee to use their discretion in the matter.

Statistics to be presented to the Conference.

101. Mr. Oldham submitted a recommendation on behalf of Commission I. that, in order to remove misconception, the title of the Conference should be supplemented by adding to the words "World Missionary Conference" the words "To consider Missionary Problems in relation to the Non-Christian World." This was unanimously approved of.

Date of next Meeting.

102. The next meeting of the Executive Committee was appointed to be held in the Church Missionary House, London, on Friday, 29th October 1909, at 10.30 a.m.

Closed with prayer.

J. H. OLDHAM,
KENNETH MACLENNAN, } *Secretaries.*